

Missouri Continuing Planning Process

Prepared pursuant to Section 303(e) of the federal Clean Water Act

Approved by the Clean Water Commission November 28, 2001

The Continuing Planning Process (CPP) is an informational document for public and environmental interests, state and local government and EPA. The document provides discussions of planning activities and processes, and access to additional sources of information and references, including technical guidance documents, memorandums of agreement or legislative updates for those interested in water quality management.

The ultimate goal of the CPP is to document a comprehensive and efficient water quality management system. The department's recent combining of the Water Pollution Control Program, the Soil and Water Conservation Program and the Public Drinking Water Program into the new Water Protection and Soil Conservation Division in September 1, 2001 will help to achieve this goal. Recent organizational developments and future revisions to the document, including the public participation process will be public noticed and submitted to the Clean Water Commission for approval.

The document is available on the web at http://www.dnr.state.mo.us/wpscd/wpcp/homewpcp.htm Comments and questions regarding the CPP may be made to cleanwater@dnr.state.mo.us or addressed to:

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Consultation for the CPP provided by the Planning, Enforcement, Finance, Engineering and Administration Sections of the Water Pollution Control Program.

The 2001 edition of the CPP was prepared by Carol K Garey, Planner, WPCP.

Authority

The Clean Water Act (CWA) calls for each state to have and to maintain an approved Continuing Planning Process (CPP). The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Water Pollution Control Program is required to submit a CPP for approval to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 administrator. Upon approval of the original CPP submitted in 1973, Missouri was granted National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) implementation authority by the EPA in 1974.

While the Missouri Clean Water Commission approves the CPP document, the EPA Region 7 administrator may comment on the document, finding it consistent or not consistent with the Act. Recognizing that program changes in policies and processes occur over time, the Clean Water Act requires that such changes are consistent with the Act's requirements. Missouri received approvals for its original CPP of 1973 and the revised CPP of 1984. The 2001-2005 CPP is the most recent description of the Department of Natural Resource's water quality planning processes.

Purpose

The purpose of the CPP is to describe informational processes that allow the Department of Natural Resources' Water Pollution Control Program to set program priorities; manage the regulatory, monitoring and planning functions for water quality; and take enforcement and compliance action when necessary.

The Missouri Continuing Planning Process, 2001-2005, reflects the ongoing internal planning processes of the program and available sources of information. Updating the CPP addresses how the Water Pollution Control Program does business and affords opportunities to plan process changes that accommodate what the program would like to do in the future. The CPP document will be formally updated every five years. Revisions to the Continuing Planning Process will be submitted to the Clean Water Commission for approval on an annual basis.

The CPP is not a strategy or plan in and of itself but articulates Water Pollution Control Program policies and planning for water quality management.

Scope and Organization

The CPP specifically addresses nine elements and identifies the Water Pollution Control Program's processes for water quality management. Each element begins with a summary. References to technical documents and sources explain water quality planning processes and requirements in greater detail. Various sources of information, state regulations and EPA references provide additional insight into the requirements for water quality management.

A table of contents, including an appendix of charts and maps, is provided with the document. The abstract of the document precedes Section I. The abstract summarizes the text of the CPP providing an overview of water quality planning in general. Section I provides an overview of the Water Pollution Control Program's activities, describing aspects of water quality planning and water resources. Section II describes in more detail the continuous planning processes in each of the nine required elements and provides legal and technical references as well as various Web site locations. Section III contains a list of water quality issues and future developments within the program's sections.